

REMARKS

Claims 2, 4-5, 9-11, 13-15 and 17-19 are rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by or in the alternative under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 4,145,468 to Mizoguchi et al. Claims 6-9, 12 and 16-18 are rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mizoguchi as applied to claims 2, 4-5, 9-11, 13-15 and 17-19 and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,256,429 to Honda et al. Claims 6-9 are rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Mizoguchi as applied to claims 2, 4-5, 9-11, 13-15 and 17-19 and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,780,469 to Iijima. Claims 2, 4-5, 9-11, 13-15 and 17-19 are rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mizoguchi in view of any one of U.S. Patent No. 4,497,095 to Minemura et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,146,663 to Ikeda et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,118,529 to Nakagawa et al. or U.S. Patent No. 3,865,678 to Okamoto et al. Claims 6-9, 12 and 16-18 are rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mizoguchi in view of any one of Minemura, Ikeda, Nakagawa or Okamoto as previously applied and further in view of Honda. Claims 6-9 are rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Mizoguchi in view of any one of Minemura, Ikeda, Nakagawa, or Okamoto as applied hereinabove and further in view of Iijima. Finally, claims 2 and 4-19 are rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Honda in view of Minemura, Ikeda, Nakagawa or Okamoto. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The present invention is directed to a composite sheet which possesses excellent softness, long elongation and form stability, wherein the composite sheet contains a non-woven fabric (1) having ultrafine fibers with a fineness of less than 0.3 denier, a woven or knitted fabric layer (2) containing a yarn made of ultrafine fibers having a fineness of 0.01 to less than 0.3 denier and a polyurethane resin. As recited in claim 3 of the present application, the fineness of the ultrafine fibers of the woven or knitted fabric layer (2) is further defined so as to be not more than the fineness of the ultrafine fibers of the non-woven fabric layer (1). In reviewing the prior art references, it is believed that none of the references relied upon by the Examiner recognize the importance of the specific relationship between the woven or knitted fabric layer (2) and the non-woven fabric layer (1), that is, that the fineness of the ultrafine fibers of the woven or knitted

fabric layer (2) is further defined so as to be not more than the fineness of the ultrafine fibers of the non-woven fabric layer (1).

To clearly demonstrate this particular feature of the present invention, the Applicants are submitting herewith a Declaration under 37 CFR 1.132. In the Table in the Declaration, Samples 2 and 4 show that when the fineness of the fine fiber of the woven or knitted fabric is not more than the fineness of the fine fiber of the non-woven fabric, are compared to Samples 3 and 5 which show that the fineness of the fine fiber of the woven or knitted fabric is more than the fineness of the fine fiber of the non-woven fabric, Sample 3 has a worse softness and appearance than Sample 2 and also possesses a higher stiffness and elongation at constant load when compared to Example 2. Also, Sample 5 has a worse softness and appearance when compared to Sample 4 and also exhibits a higher stiffness and elongation and constant load when compared to Example 4. The rear surfaces of the actual samples which are attached to the Declaration clearly show in Samples 2 and 4, the advantageous results of the present invention when compared to Examples 3 and 5. Thus, not only have the Applicants shown numerically with respect to stiffness and elongation at constant load, the advantages of the present invention when the denier of the non-woven fabric and woven fabric are controlled as defined by the present invention and as recited in the claims, the present Declaration also shows through actual products identified by Samples 2-5, the advantageous results of the present invention.

Since the present Request for Reconsideration and the attached Declaration provide actual proof of the Applicants' arguments which have always been part of both the application and the claims as originally filed, it is believed that the present application is now in condition for allowance.

Because of time restraints, it was not possible to obtain the signed copy of the Declaration at the time of the filing of the present RCE application. However, an executed Declaration will be timely filed supplemental to the filing of the present RCE application.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Joseph A. Kolasch Reg. No. 22,463 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
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